to supplement the efforts of the State Governments for increasing milk production, Central Government also provides support through various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored schemes.

Illegal Collection of Prawn at Orissa Coast

2931. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA :

SHRI AMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that illegal collection of prawn seedings has become a flourishing trade alongwith the Orissa Coasts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) Reports of wild prawn seed collection in coastal areas have been received by the Government of Orissa. The State Government has banned illegal collection and transport of wild shrimp seed through a notification dated 14-2-1994 issued under the Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1982. The District Collectors of coastal areas and the concerned railway authorities have been directed to take action against violators. Apart from the action taken by the State Government, the Aquaculture Authority has also issued clear guidelines prohibiting the use of wild prawn seeds in the country.

Improper Distribution of Relief Material in Orissa

†2932. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV :

SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of food articles sent as a relief measure as well as the relief provided from the Prime Minister Calamity Fund for the sufferer of natural calamity in Orissa;

(b) whether all given material has been appropriately distributed, if so, the reaction of Government on the report in respect of Orissa tragedy published in 'Dainik Jagran' dated 8th March, 2000 by Indian Women Press Corps; and

(c) the details of action taken on the investigation, if any, done by Government into the scam which took place in distribution of relief material ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (c) It is primarily the

responsibility of the State Government to take necessary restoration and rehabilitation measures. Transportation of relief materials free of cost was arranged. Various Central Ministries/Departments took appropriate measures to assist the State Government. Central share of Calamity Relief Fund to the State for 1999-2000 amounting to Rs. 42.50 crore and assistance of Rs. 828.15 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) were released. Questions pertaining to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund are not admissible under relevant Rules since the corpus of this fund is constituted entirely with voluntary public contribution and not from any allocation out of the Consolidated Fund of India and disbursements from the fund are entirely at the discretion of the Prime Minister. The State Government has already set up the Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority. The press cutting of 8th March, 2000 has been sent to the State Government for appropriate action.

Lifting Price Control on Fertilizers

2933. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning to lift all pricing control on all pricing control on all kinds of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what will be the status of subsidy on fertilizers after lifting the control on pricing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) to (c) All varieties of fertilisers other than urea are already free from price, movement and distribution control. The Government intend moving towards a deregulated regime in all the three types of fertilisers, i.e., nitrogen, phosphatic and potassic, after taking into account fiscal sustainability on the one hand and the necessity of making available fertilisers to the farmers at a reasonable price on the other. Towards this end, it is proposed to formulate a long term policy for the fertiliser sector which would include, inter-alia, the Government's decision on the recommendations of the High Powered Review Committee on Fertiliser Pricing Policy.